55% Say Abortion Morally Wrong Most of the Time

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Slightly more voters continue to classify themselves as pro-choice rather than pro-life when it comes to abortion, but a majority still believes it is morally wrong.

The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that 48% of Likely U.S. Voters say, generally speaking, on the issue of abortion, they consider themselves pro-choice. Forty-three percent (43%) describe themselves as pro-life. (To see survey question wording, click here.)

Pro-choice voters have slightly outnumbered pro-lifers in surveys for several years.

Still, 55% believe abortion is morally wrong most of the time, a finding that shows little change since April 2007. Thirty percent (30%) think abortion is morally acceptable in the majority of cases, while 15% are undecided.

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The national survey of 1,000 Likely Voters was conducted on August 23-24, 2011 by Rasmussen Reports. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence. Field work for all Rasmussen Reports surveys is conducted by Pulse Opinion Research, LLC. See methodology.

When it comes to the next congressional election, 54% of voters say the issue of abortion is at least somewhat important in terms of how they will vote, including 31% who say it's Very Important. Forty-four percent (44%) say the issue of abortion isn't important come the next congressional election, with 17% who believe it's Not At All Important.

For comparison's sake, the economy remains the top issue in terms of voter concern. Ninety-seven percent (97%) say the economy is at least somewhat important in determining how they will vote in the next congressional election, with 84% who say it's Very Important.

Forty-one percent (41%) of all voters say it's too easy to get an abortion in the United States. Only 16% feel it's too hard to get one, and another 29% say the level of accessibility is about right. Fourteen percent (14%) are not sure. Generally, these findings also have remained consistent since 2007.

Some states in the country require a waiting period before a woman gets an abortion. Just over half (52%) agree that there should be a waiting period, while 35% disagree. Thirteen percent (13%) are undecided. These results show little change from the beginning of the year.

Separate surveying earlier this year found that 65% of Americans support a three-day waiting period and counseling before an abortion. Sixty-five percent (65%) also believe the waiting period and counseling are at least somewhat likely to reduce the number of abortions.

Fifty-one percent (51%) of female voters say they're pro-choice, but just 44% of male voters say the same. Voters under the age of 40 are more likely to be pro-choice than their elders.

Most Democrats (70%) are pro-choice, while the majority (62%) of Republicans and a plurality (47%) of voters not affiliated with either major party are pro-life.

Seventy-two percent (72%) of GOP voters and 60% of unaffiliateds think abortion is morally wrong most of the time. The plurality (46%) of Democrats disagree and feel abortion is not morally wrong in most instances.Republicans are nearly three times as likely as Democrats and nearly twice as likely as unaffiliated voters to think it's too easy to get an abortion in America today.In late December 2009, 53% of voters nationwide favored an unsuccessful amendment to the national health care bill that would have prohibited coverage of abortion by any insurance plan that receives federal government subsidies.

When it comes to social issues like abortion, public prayer and church-state topics: 36% of voters say they are conservative, 29% moderate and 32% liberal.